India Nepal border would improve border infrastructure thereby leading to enhanced connectivity, promote cross-border economic integration and strengthening the development of the area. This would also be helpful in effective patrolling, communication and check trans-border crimes and anti-national activities. This will also facilitate better movement of Border Guarding Forces.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

NHRC's visit to Vidarbha regarding prisoner's condition

†1288. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of National Human Rights Commission has visited the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra to inspect the condition of prisoners there;

(b) if so, the information submitted by the team of Commission regarding the condition of prisoners;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cases of keeping more prisoners in jails than their capacity, imprisonment of accused of petty crime for several years and mismanagement in keeping women prisoners and their children have also come to the light during the visit; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Revival of National Integration Council

1289. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to revive the National Integration Council (NIC);

(b) whether the National Integration Council has been re-constituted;

(c) if so, the composition thereof; and

(d) what are the roles envisaged for States in the implementation of national integration programmes conducted by the NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Integration Council (NIC) was last re-constituted by way of Press Note dated 2.2.2005. The re-constituted NIC, headed by the Prime Minister, has 138 Members comprising Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories which have legislatures, Leaders of National Political Parties and Regional Political Parties, Chairpersons of National Commissions, Media Persons, Eminent Public Figures and Representatives drawn from Business, Labour and Women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.